

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 PA-01

SS-15 USIA-06 PRS-01 SCCT-01 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02 OMB-01 SY-05

OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 A-01 EB-07 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-10

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P R 141823Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2274

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, NL, NS

SUBJ: SURINAM INDEPENDENCE: THE EVE

REF : PARAMARIBO 0553

1. WITH BUT TEN DAYS REMAINING UNTIL SURINAM BECOMES INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC NOV 25, PROSPECTS ARE FOR GENERALLY CALM TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, MARKED BY SOME RISE IN RACIAL TENSIONS, PERHAPS A FEW SCATTERED INCIDENTS. WHILE LAST MINUTE OPPOSITION EFFORT TO ORGANIZE EAST INDIAN BOYCOTT OF INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS CANNOT YET BE RULED OUT, POSSIBILITY DECLINING.

2. PARLIAMENTARY CRISIS WHICH BECLOUDED FUTURE OF GOVERNING NPK COALITION THROUGHOUT AUTUMN NOW FULLY RESOLVED IN GOS FAVOR, AT LEAST INTO NEXT YEAR. IN ADDITION VHP MEMBER HINDORI'S TEMPORARY SUPPORT (REFTEL), COALITION HAS GAINED NEW MEMBER IN MARTODIKROMO

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OF KTPI, SEATED TO SUCCEED LIE KONG FONG. LATTER FIRST DEFECTED

TO MAVERICK NPS FRACTION (NOW DOWN TO TWO) AND HAS NOW RESIGNED FROM STATEN. ON OPPOSITION SIDE, ONE JAVANESE MEMBER HAS LEFT FOR HOLLAND, TO RETURN AFTER INDEPENDENCE IF EVER.

3. VHP FINAL BID TO DELAY INDEPENDENCE COLLAPSED WHEN HINDORI PROVIDED STATEN QUORUM TO SEAT MARTODIKROMO, OPENING WAY FOR CONVENING STATEN ON REGULAR BASIS. CONSTITUTIONAL DEBATE SCHEDULED BEGIN NOV 16 AND OPPOSITION WILL PARTICIPATE. AT MASS MEETING VHP CHAIRMAN LACHMON HAS THREATENED BOYCOTT OF INDEPENDENCE ACTIVITIES UNLESS DEBATE CONCLUDED IN FASHION ACCEPTABLE TO EAST INDIANS. CABINET AND SECURITY SERVICES WITH WHOM I HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY OF SIGNIFICANT VIOLENCE STEMMING FROM A BOYCOTT, MIN JUSTICE AND POLICE REMARKING, "CREOLES WILL BE IN SUCH FESTIVAL MOOD, WON'T EVEN NOTICE." MOREOVER, MANY OF LARGER INDIAN MERCHANTS DECORATING STORES FOR COMING EVENTS.

4. THERE ARE SOME SIGNS, AS INDEPENDENCE EUPHORIA INCREASES (THOUGH WHOLE SCENE HAS BEEN PRETTY LOW KEY AND RESTRAINED) THAT SELF-CONFIDENT NPK MAY IN COMING WEEK BE UNCHARACTERISTICALLY GENEROUS IN STATEN IN ACCOMODATING TO OPPOSITION CONCERNS, MAINLY HAVING TO DO WITH CIVIL RIGHTS GUARANTEES AND PERCEIVED ECONOMIC DISCRIMINATION. GOVERNOR FERRIER BELIEVES COALITION PREPARED BE FORTHCOMING, AND ECON MIN BRUMA, A HARD-LINER AND BETE NOIR OF VHP, COMMENTED TO ME, "WE WILL TRY NOT FRUSTRATE THEM ANY MORE THAN ALREADY FRUSTRATED." (SMALL COMFORT PERHAPS).

5. DUTCH MISSION HERE HAS BEEN HOLDING GO-AHEAD FOR ROYAL VISIT (PROBABLY PRINCESS BEATRIX AND PRINCE CLAUS) IN ABEYANCE PENDING OUTCOME OF CONSTITUTION DEBATE, FEELING NO MEMBER ROYAL FAMILY SHOULD BE EXPOSED TO EVEN REMOTE PROSPECT OF MINOR VIOLENCE. SUCH SENSITIVITY SEEMS OVERDONE WHEN ONE-THIRD OF REALM ON EVE OF PEACEFUL INDEPENDENCE.
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